THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar are Multi State Cooperative Societies having their own Boards of Management which decide the business operations including opening of branches in various states. The opening of fair price shops remains the responsibility of the State Governments.

(c) and (d) Under the Public Distribution System, foodgrains, sugar and kerosene are being allocated to the State for distribution in all areas including far-flung areas. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) introduced in June, 1997 covers "poor in all areas" and the quantum of foodgrains *viz.* wheat and rice, provided for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families is uniform in all areas including the far flung areas. The allocation of foodgrains BPL families has been increased from 20 Kg. to 25 Kg. Per family per month w.e.f. July, 2001. With effect from 1.2.2001, levy sugar supply under PDS is restricted to BPL families except in case of North Eastern States, Hilly States and Islands Territories where it is allocated for all families. The per capita norm has been enhanced from 425 gram to 500 grams per month so that the BPL beneficiaries would get more benefit.

The allocation of foodgrains, sugar and kerosene is made by the Central Government to the State/Union Territories for distribution through the PDS. The distribution of these commodities within the State including the far-flung areas, and opening of fair price shops is the responsibility of State Government. Foodgrains under TPDS are distributed to the consumers through a net work of over 4.62 lakhs fair prices shops.

Procurement of rice from Andhra Pradesh State agencies

1968. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the Food Corporation of India togetherwith Andhra Pradesh State Government agencies to procure 10 lakhs tonne of rice;

(b) whether Government have also specified that the Food Corporation of India may accept custom milled rice of 70 per cent share of 10 lakhs tonne paddy from the State agencies of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) On the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, it was decided that FCI and State Government would procure 10 lakh tonnes of paddy in the ratio of 30:70.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) A quantity of 0.55 lakh MTs of paddy has been procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and 3.74 lakh MTs by the State Government/Agencies. Besides, FCI has also procured 65.77 lakh MTs of levy rice as on 6.8.2001. FCI has been accepting delivery of Custom Milled Rice from the State Government as and when given.

Rottening foodgrain stocks

1969. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge foodgrains stocks are rottening in Government warehouses and godowns of the Food Corporation of Indian which is not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof, whether Government have decided to sell these rotten foodgrains in auction for using as manure;

(c) if so, the quantity of such foodgrains already sold in auction and likely to be sold in the near future for the purpose; and

(d) what are the details of the corrective steps being initiated to stop the recurrence of such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir. As on 1st of July 2001, the quantity of damaged foodgrains was 1.82 lakh tones out of F.C.I.'s the total stock of 327.06 lakh tones which is only around